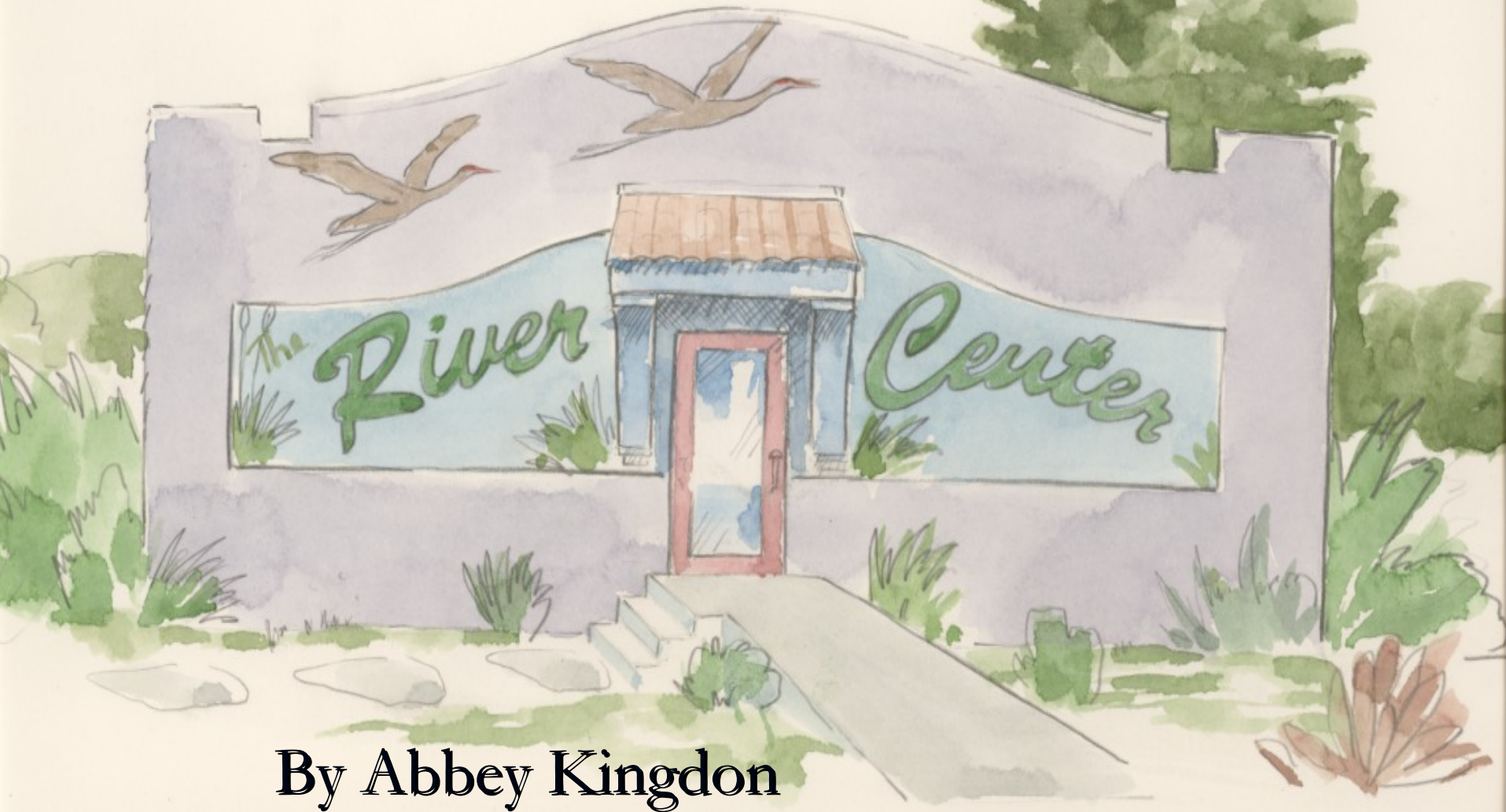


The Central Modoc River Center



By Abbey Kingdon

Without them...

- Thank you !!
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Dennis Heiman and staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

THE RIVER CENTER



WATER, THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL LIFE

The River Center

- Showcases natural resources of the Pit River Watershed, a tributary of the Sacramento River
- Interpretive center
 - Educational activities
 - Events
 - Programs
 - Tours

Where is the River Center?

- Alturas, Modoc County
- Abundant natural resources, agriculture
- County population: 9,449 (2000 Census)
- 4,203 square miles
- Economically disadvantaged
 - Median income: approximately \$24,000





Some portions of Modoc County are covered by Lassen National Forest (916)257-2151 and Modoc National Forest (916)233-6811

Where is the River Center?

A sketch of Modoc:

Open space

Clean air

High desert: sage, juniper, grasslands

No stoplights

No fast food

Rite Aid in Alturas: big news!





What is the River Center?

- Formed by the Central Modoc Resource Conservation District
- Partner with Modoc County Office of Education
- Created with a grant from SWRCB
- Pit River on 303(d) list

What is the River Center?

- Opened in 2003
- Budget: \$30,000
- Community/volunteer support is phenomenal
- Everything local
- Committees wanted balance
- Belongs to the community





What is the River Center?

- Nonprofit organization in 2004
- Pit River Watershed Adoption Project
- Annual programs, events, community outreach activities





What is the River Center?

- Full-time education coordinator
- Permanent facility

“Conservation is the state of
harmony between men and
land.”

-Aldo Leopold

“Men and nature must work hand in hand. The throwing out of balance of the resources of nature, throws out of balance also the lives of men.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Why is the River Center needed?

- Began as the educational arm of CMRCD restoration work
- True restoration: change beliefs, attitudes, practices

Why is the River Center needed?

■ Vision Statement:

- Provide the community opportunities to connect with their watershed through experiences and education
- Create informed, responsible land stewards

Why is the River Center needed?

■ Mission Statement:

- Provide watershed education to the local community and the public
- Promote the health and sustainability of the local community, economy and environment.

Why is the River Center needed?

■ Purpose

- Provide education, exchange scientific information and foster the conservation of Modoc County's natural resources

Why is the River Center needed?

- Nonprofit organization that facilitates many land stewardship education programs, events, activities and exhibits

The Pit River Watershed Adoption Project

- Place-based learning
- Student driven
- Hands on
- Service learning

The Adoption Project

- Alturas schools
- Grades K-7, will grow to K-12
- Modoc National Wildlife Refuge
- Structure of program
 - Pre-classroom instruction
 - Activity at site
 - Reflection/writing session

The Adoption Project

- Keep project site records until graduate, long-term
- Promotes ownership in the environment
- Facilitates land stewardship
- Many volunteers, partnerships

The Results of the River Center

- Direct:
- Increased knowledge of natural resources and the ecosystem processes

The Results of the River Center

- Direct:
- Increased interaction with the watershed
- Increased intra-community activity
- Increased student (youth)-community interaction

The Results of the River Center

- Direct:
- 700 students toured the River Center in 2004
- Average 30 visitors to the River Center per month

The Results of the River Center

- Indirect:
- Develop sense of ownership and pride in watershed
- Sense of accomplishment through gaining and applying knowledge

The Results of the River Center

- Indirect:
- Sense of wonder, awe and respect for natural processes
- Sense of security and comfort, through community interaction

Come visit!

- Please visit the River Center

- 136 Henderson St.

Alturas, CA 96101

(530) 233-5085

www.centralmodocrivercenter.org